

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REACTION TO CARTER INAUGURATION

REF: USIAC ATHENS 0646 (NOTAL)

1. THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, AND ESPECIALLY THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL INAUGURAL MESSAGE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, RECEIVED HEAVY AND GENERALLY FAVORABLE TREATMENT IN THE GREEK MEDIA. THE EXTENSIVE RADIO AND TV COVERAGE DEVOTED TO THE OCCASION (REFTEL) WAS REPEATED TO A LARGE DEGREE IN THE PRESS. NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PRESIDENT AND MRS CARTER WERE CARRIED PROMINENTLY IN GREEK NEWSPAPERS. FAVORABLE POLITICAL CARTOONS WERE ALSO PUBLISHED
2. THE BASIC TONE RUNNING THROUGHOUT MUCH OF THE REPORTING WAS THAT OF GUARDED OPTIMISM AND EXPECTANCY THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MEANT POSITIVE CHANGE FROM THE FORD-KISSINGER POLICIES. EDITORIAL EMPHASIS FOCUSED MORE ON THE FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHANGEOVER THAN ON CONSEQUENCES FOR THE U.S. DOMESTIC SCENE. CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT TSATSOS AND FROM PRIME
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MINISTER CARAMANLIS WERE ALSO PROMINENT IN THE MEDIA

3. EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS WERE REPRINTED WIDELY, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION ON THE PASSAGES RELATIVE TO FOREIGN RELATIONS. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIS PLEDGE THAT AMERICAN WILL NOT BEHAVE ABROAD IN VIOLATION OF HER OWN RULES AND STANDARDS RECEIVED ACCLAIM. THE COMMUNIST

PRESS DWELT PRIMARILY ON HIS COMMENTS CONCERNING PEACE AND DISARMAMENT. ILLUSTRATIVE HEADLINES INCLUDED: PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI, "THE CARTER ERA BEGAN - WITH A STATEMENT THAT AMERICA WILL HAVE A 'CLEAR PREFERENCE' FOR THE COUNTRIES WHICH RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS"; LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA, "CARTER PROMISES": 'WE SHALL NOT TRY TO DOMINATE'; COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI, "CARTER APPEARS OPTIMISTIC IN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL SPEECH - HE HOPES THERE WILL SOON BE AN AGREEMENT ON THE DISARMAMENT ISSUE"; COMMUNIST (KKE-EXTERIOR) RIZOSPASTIS, "CARTER PROMISES CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD PEACE - FOLLOWING HIS INAUGURATION AS THE 39TH PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A."; RIGHT WING ELEFTHEROS COSMOS, "JIMMY CARTER WAS SWORN IN YESTERDAY AS PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A. - THE U.S.A. WILL PURSUE A POLICY OF 'QUIET STRENGTH' - OVERSEAS MESSAGE HAS OPTIMISTIC CONTENT"; LEFT-OF-CENTER ELEFTHEROTYPA, "CARTER PROMISED JUSTICE TO THE WORLD - 100,000 PEOPLE AT HIS INAUGURATION", AND LIBERAL OPPOSITION T A NEA, "J. CARTER DENOUNCES THE DOCTRINE OF U.S. DOMINATION - IN HIS MESSAGE YESTERDAY TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES - THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE SUPPORTED."

4. EDITORIAL COMMENT REFLECTED FAVORABLY ON THE INCOMING PRESIDENT AND PRAISED THE PRINCIPLES, ESPECIALLY THOSE THOUCHING ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, ENUNCIATED IN THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE EXPECTATION, HOWEVER, THAT CARTER MUST APPLY HIS IDEALS IN THE CONTEXT OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS AND IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. AS EXAMPLES, CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI WROTE IN ITS EDITORIAL ENTITLED "EXPECTATIONS" THAT "MR CARTER...WAS EXPLICIT UNCLASSIFIED

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IN HIS PLEDGES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED GREEK RIGHTS AND PROMISED THE REESTABLISHMENT OF LEGALITY IN CYPRUS...EVERY INITIATIVE, THEREFORE, FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE GREEK-TURKISH CRISIS AND THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WILL HAVE TO BE BASED ON THESE TWO PREREQUISITES. THE POSITION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT VIS-A-VIS THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WILL DECIDE HIS PRESTIGE AND THE GLORY OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION..." TO VIMA'S COLUMN CALLED "AMERICA: ZERO HOUR" STATED "THE 39TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WAS SWORN IN YESTERDAY... FOR GREECE THIS IS A CRITICAL MOMENT, INDEED. THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS COMPELLED TO FACE PENDING GREEK-TURKISH CONFLICTS REGARDING CYPRUS, THE AEGEAN, THE AIR SPACE, AND THE REST OF THE ENDLESS TURKISH CHAUVINISTIC CLAIMS...WE ARE NOT GOING TO SUGGEST THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ELECTION WAS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIS STATEMENT REGARDING THE SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS CRISIS AND OF THE ROLE OF HELLENISM IN THE UNITED STATES...HOWEVER, ...THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL LINK HIS NAME TO HISTORY IF HE DECIDES TO DECLARE THAT THE

DOCTRINE OF AMERICAN POLICY WILL BE THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS..." KATHIMERINI SAID "WHAT MR CARTER REPEATED IN HIS

SPEECH THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY RESTORED THE EXPECTATION THAT THE AMERICAN NATION HAS AGAIN FOUND LEADERSHIP DIRECTLY COMMENSURATE TO ITS SIZE. LEADERSHIP WHICH WILL RESTORE THE SYMPATHIES THAT IT IS ENTITLED TO. THIS (LEADERSHIP) IS WHAT WE ARE GREETING*"

5. ELEFHEROTYPIA WELCOMED PRESIDENT CARTER, COMMENTING ""FOR 200 YEARS THIS SCENE HAS REPEATED ITSELF 38 TIMES...BUT THE 39TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CAN DO NO HARM -- ONLY GOOD. HE IS COMPELLED TO BE MORE PEACEFUL, MORE CONCILIATORY, MORE CAREFUL AND MORE HUMBLE THAN HIS PREDECESSORS." EVEN COMMUNIST AVGHI HAD KIND WORDS FOR THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT, SAYING "ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH AFTER HE WAS SWORN IN CAN GENERALLY BE INTERPRETED IN DIFFERENT WAYS, IT DOES CREATE A FEELING OF OPTIMISM IN THE MIDST OF A GENERAL UNCERTAINTY, SO CHARACTERISTIC OF THE WORLD TODAY.....ALSO THE DECLARATION, UNCLASSIFIED

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'ARMAMENTS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THE LEVEL NECESSARY FOR THE INTERNAL SECURITY OF EACH COUNTRY,' AND THE HOPE THAT 'A STEP WILL BE TAKEN TOWARD ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS,' TOGETHER WITH THE PROMISE THAT HE WILL WORK FOR A PEACE NOT SUPPORTED BY ARMS BUT BY A POLICY OF PRINCIPLES, GIVE RISE TO HOPE AMONG HUMANITY PROVIDED THAT THESE WORDS MEAN WHAT THEY SAY AND, MOST OF ALL, PROVIDED THEY DO NOT REMAIN BEATIFUL DECLARATIONS BUT THAT THEY ARE TRANSFORMED INTO DEEDS." MOSCOW-ORIENTED COMMUNIST (KKE-EXTERIOR) RIZOSPASTIS, HOWEVER, HAS CHOSEN TO REMAIN SILENT SO FAR IN ITS EDITORIAL COLUMN. KUBISCH

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